Welfare of Fruit-Growers in NER

2736. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any scheme for the welfare of fruit growers in North Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the funds allocated for the same during the year 2001-2002; and

(c) the step taken or'proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in the North-Eastern States including Sikkim during the Ninth Plan with effect from 2001-02. An outlay of Rs. 59.75 crores has been allocated during the current year. The Scheme envisages overall development of horticulture including fruits covering research, production programmes, marketing and post harvest management and processing. The fruit growers can avail the benefits of the scheme by way of getting good quality planting material of fruit crops through nurseries, assistance for area expansion, training on latest technologies, marketing of produce at the Wholesale Markets or Rural Primary Markets or Apni Mandis, which are activities of the Scheme.

Increasing the Income of Small Farmers

2737. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to draw up a congenial policy, so that small farmers can generate more income and employment in villages;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The Government is already pursuing a policy to promote generation of income and employment in villages for the benefit of rural communities including small farmers. In pursuance to this objective, various Central and Centrally Sponsored Scheme are being implemented through various implementing agencies/departments and through the State Governments for development of Agriculture, Horticulture, Aquaculture, Animal Husbandary, Poultry, Apiculture, Sericulture, Cottage and Small Scale Industries and other diverse economic activities.

Food to Starving Families

2738. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after Orissa, 11 persons have died in Udaipur district (Rajasthan) from starvation/malnutrition, as alleged by a non-Government organisation;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to provide food to the starving families throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRJCULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) -No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Diminishing Trend in Rayda Production

2739. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the findings of a survey conducted by Mustard Research and Promotion Consortium, regarding the diminishing trend in Rayda Production by the Cultivators;